



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Taste Washington Day coming to a school near you

OLYMPIA – School is in full swing, harvest season is upon us and for school children throughout the state this means Taste Washington Day is coming.

On Sept. 25, the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and the [Washington School Nutrition Association](#) (WSNA) will partner with more than 30 farmers and 300 schools statewide, all preparing to use Washington-grown foods for their cafeteria meals.

“Taste Washington Day is a chance for schools to teach their students about where their food comes from and promote healthy eating,” Director Bud Hover said. “It’s also about recognizing the hard work of the farmers and ranchers and others who provide the food that we all enjoy.”

WSDA first began started partnering with WSNA on Taste Washington Day in 2010 and, since then, at least 60 school districts have participated. Many use Taste Washington Day as a way to test Farm to School programs, where the use of locally produced foods becomes a regular feature of the school menu. For others, it’s a once-a-year celebration of healthy food and agriculture.

The day has become popular with farmers, school administrators, local officials, families and students. It is also part of a growing national trend to improve the nutrient value of the lunches schools serve to children throughout the country.

“Prevailing wisdom seems to be that children don’t want healthy or nutritious food,” said Chris Neal, president of the Washington School Nutrition Association. “But if it looks good and tastes good, most students are more than willing to try something new. And what tastes or looks better than fresh, local produce?”

Visit www.wafarmtoschool.org for more information on Taste Washington Day, including suggested recipes or other ways to participate. Or contact WSDA Taste Washington Day coordinator Acacia Larson at alarson@agr.wa.gov or 206-256-6151.

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